

8/31/25

Elegant English

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
 Number of players: Unlimited
 Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
 Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

The words in this game are not obscure, but they are not commonly used in everyday conversation. For example, most of us would say, “The star of that movie had black hair and very pale, white skin.” But perhaps a more elegant word choice would be to say that the movie star had *alabaster* skin.

In this game, we provide a list of “elegant” words. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can’t, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

We will be posting this game format regularly until we complete the alphabet. This week, we are looking at elegant words that begin with the letter C.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first word and ask for its definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year’s blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may “buzz” in and answer.
4. If no one comes up with the correct definition, read the three possible answers.
5. As before, the first player/team to signal may give an answer. If the answer is incorrect, the others may “buzz” in.
6. Score 10 points for each correct answer. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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INSTRUCTIONS: In this game, we provide a list of words that are not obscure, but not very commonly used. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can't, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

QUESTIONS

1. Callow: (CAL•oh)
A: A Caribbean stew
B: An inexpensive wax used for candles
C: Young and inexperienced
2. Capricious: (Ka•PRISH•is)
A: A short humorous story
B: Likely to change; impulsive
C: Filled to overflowing
3. Celadon: (CELL•ah•don)
A: A shade of pale green
B: A prehistoric bird
C: A Chinese tea set
4. Celerity: (sa•LAR•it•ee)
A: Famous
B: Speed
C: Crunchy, especially related to food
5. Cenotaph: (SEN•ah•taff)
A: An unmarked grave or a memorial monument
B: A mythical animal similar to a lion
C: A timeline that spans one hundred years
6. Cistern: (SIS•tern)
A: A makeshift toilet
B: A closet for valuable or sacred objects
C: A large container for storing water
7. Comestibles: (com•ESS•tib•buls)
A: Toiletries, such as perfume and make-up
B: Souvenir and novelty items
C: Things that are edible

8. Copse: (COPS)
A: A large hole in the ground created by a burrowing animal
B: A thicket of small trees
C: A storage area built into the highest point of a ceiling
9. Coterie: (COAT•er•ree)
A: A large bird's nest
B: A group of temporary beds found in a barracks or a hospital setting
C: A tight-knit group of people with shared interests
10. Canard: (ka•NARD)
A: A colorful, tropical bird
B: An air-tight container for baked goods
C: A false rumor or story
11. Cygnet: (CIG•net)
A: A shade of light blue
B: A tall bicycle with a large front wheel
C: A young swan
12. Catharsis: (ka•THAR•sis)
A: An ornate entry to a church or castle
B: A purging of emotional tensions
C: A hairball expelled by a kitten
13. Craven: (KRAY•ven)
A: Extremely cowardly
B: Greedy
C: Boastful
14. Cabriolet: (cab•ree•oh•LAY)
A: A one-person tent
B: A two-wheeled carriage
C: A round-cut gem
15. Calumny: (CAL•um•knee)
A: A fabric similar to flannel
B: A young squid
C: A vile misrepresentation

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ANSWERS

1. C: Young and inexperienced
2. B: Likely to change; impulsive
3. A: A shade of pale green
4. B: Speed
5. A: An unmarked grave or a memorial monument
6. C: A large container for storing water
7. C: Things that are edible
8. B: A thicket of small trees
9. C: A tight-knit group of people with shared interests
10. C: A false rumor or story
11. C: A young swan
12. B: A purging of emotional tensions
13. A: Extremely cowardly
14. B: A two-wheeled carriage
15. C: A vile misrepresentation